

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The claims have been amended as set forth above. No new matter has been added. The claims are believed to be in condition for allowance.

I. Examiner Interview Dated September 11, 2007

An Examiner interview was held on September 11, 2007. An agreement as to allowability was not reached. Applicants believe that an agreement was reached that the current changes distinguish the cited references.

II. Claim Objections

Claims 1, 15 and 18 are objected to because the preamble recites "automatically." The Office Action asserts that only the auto switch mode allows automatic switching and that the other modes do not allow automatic switching. Applicants disagree. Automatic switching may occur between devices when the auto switch mode is actuated. Automatic switching may also occur by latching and unlatching the input devices. For example, a pen may be latched as mouse device. When a mouse input is subsequently received from the mouse, the pen is automatically unlatched and begins functioning as a pen again. See Specification, page 9, line 6 – page 10, line 7. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the objection.

III. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 112

Claims 1, 3, 15 and 18 are rejected as failing to comply with the enablement requirement because of the language "instantiate/instantiating." The claims have been amended as set forth above to clarify the language of the claims. Applicants request reconsideration.

With regard to claims 2 and 12, the Examiner asserts that according to the specification automatic switching only occurs in the auto-switching mode. Applicants disagree. Automatic switching may occur between devices when the auto switch mode is actuated. Automatic switching may also occur by latching and unlatching the input devices. For example, a pen may be latched as mouse device. When a mouse input is subsequently received from the mouse, the pen is

automatically unlatched and begins functioning as a pen again. See Specification, page 9, line 6 – page 10, line 7. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejections.

IV. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. 102(b)

Claims 1-4, 15 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,365,461 issued to Stein et al. (hereinafter "Stein"). Applicants respectfully disagree with the rejection. Independent claims 1 has been amended to clarify the following combination of features that are not taught or suggested by the cited references:

providing a selection-based input mode button displayed on a user interface, wherein the selection-based input mode button is configured to receive an input to actuate a selection-based input mode for recognizing inputs from a selection-based input device;

providing a pen-based input mode button displayed on the user interface, wherein the pen-based input mode button is configured to receive an input to actuate a pen-based input mode for recognizing pen inputs from a pen-based input device;

providing an auto switch mode button displayed on the user interface, wherein the auto switch mode button is configured to receive an input to actuate an auto switch mode for enabling automatic switching between the selection-based input mode and the pen-based input mode;

actuating the selection-based input mode for the selection-based input device;

receiving a selection of the auto switch mode button to actuate the auto switch mode; and

while in the auto switch mode, detecting a pen-use input from the pen-based input device, in response to detecting the pen-use input from the pen-based input device, automatically switching from the selection-based input mode to the pen-based input mode without receiving a selection of the pen-based input mode button.

The cited reference does not teach or otherwise suggest the above combination of features. Stein teaches a position sensing input device that can discriminate between a human touch input and a stylist input. Mode detection is enabled by the movement of electronic switch 18. Switch 18

detects the voltage associated with the stylist and the display overlay that detects the stylist. Stein also teaches pen use by detecting a sensor on the pen device and/or the association of the pen with a carrier device. Stein does not teach switching between input modes by providing a "selection-based input mode *button displayed on a user interface*," "a pen-based input mode button *displayed on the user interface*," and "an auto switch mode button *displayed on the user interface*." Such displayed interface buttons allows the user to easily navigate device functionality accordingly to the circumstances, provide for an automatic mode when desired, and easily latch and unlatch input devices. Accordingly, applicants assert that claim 1 is allowable.

Independent claims 15 has been amended to clarify the following combination of features that are not taught or suggested by the cited references:

providing a mouse-based input mode button displayed on a user interface, wherein the mouse-based input mode button is configured to receive an input to actuate a mouse-based input mode for recognizing inputs from a mousing device;

providing a pen-based input mode button displayed on the user interface, wherein the pen-based input mode button is configured to receive an input to actuate a pen-based input mode for recognizing pen inputs from a pen-based input device;

providing an auto switch mode button displayed on the user interface, wherein the auto switch mode button is configured to receive an input to actuate an auto switch mode for enabling automatic switching between the selection-based input mode and the pen-based input mode;

actuating an initial input mode for an initial input device;

receiving a selection of the auto switch mode button to actuate the auto switch mode;

while in the auto switch mode, detecting a pen-use input from the pen-based input device, in response to detecting the pen-use input from the pen-based input device, automatically switching from the initial input mode to the pen-based input mode without receiving a selection of the pen-based input mode button; and

while in the auto switch mode, detecting a mouse-use input from the mousing device, in response to detecting the mouse-use input from the mousing device,

automatically switching from the pen-based input mode to the mouse-based input mode without receiving a selection of the mouse-based input mode button.

The cited reference does not teach or otherwise suggest the above combination of features. Stein teaches a position sensing input device that can discriminate between a human touch input and a stylist input. Mode detection is enabled by the movement of electronic switch 18. Switch 18 detects the voltage associated with the stylist and the display overlay that detects the stylist. Stein also teaches pen use by detecting a sensor on the pen device and/or the association of the pen with a carrier device. Stein does not teach switching between input modes by providing a "mouse-based input mode *button displayed on a user interface*," "a pen-based input mode button *displayed on the user interface*," and "an auto switch mode button *displayed on the user interface*." Such displayed interface buttons allows the user to easily navigate device functionality accordingly to the circumstances, provide for an automatic mode when desired, and easily latch and unlatch input devices. Accordingly, applicants assert that claim 15 is allowable.

Claims 3-4 and 16 ultimately depend from independent claims 1 and 15, respectively. As such, they should be found allowable for at least those same reasons.

V. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 5-14 and 17-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stein in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,133,076 issued to Hawkins et al. (hereinafter "Hawkins"). Applicants respectfully disagree with the rejection. Independent claims 18 has been amended to clarify the following combination of features that are not taught or suggested by the cited references:

providing a selection-based input mode button, wherein the selection-based input mode button is configured to receive an input to actuate a selection-based input mode for recognizing inputs from a selection-based input device;

providing a pen-based input mode button, wherein the pen-based input mode button is configured to receive an input to actuate a pen-based input mode for recognizing pen inputs from a pen-based input device;

providing an auto switch mode button, wherein the auto switch mode button is configured to receive an input to actuate an auto switch mode for enabling

automatic switching between the selection-based input mode and the pen-based input mode;

actuating the selection-based input mode for the selection-based input device;

receiving a selection of the auto switch mode button to actuate the auto switch mode;

while in the auto switch mode, detecting a pen-use input from the pen-based input device, in response to detecting the pen-use input from the pen-based input device, automatically switching from the selection-based input mode to the pen-based input mode without receiving a selection of the pen-based input mode button;

while in the auto switch mode, detecting a use-input from the selection-based input device, in response to detecting the use-input of the selection-based input device, automatically switching from the pen-based input mode back to the selection-based input mode without receiving a selection of the selection-based input mode button;

latching the selection-based input device, by receiving a selection of the pen-based input button, so that the selection-based input device behaves as a pen-based input device;

detecting another use-input from the pen-based input device;

in response to detecting the another use-input of the pen-based input device, automatically unlatching the selection-based input device from behaving as a pen-based input device without receiving a selection of the pen based input mode button;

latching the pen-based input device, by receiving a selection of the selection-based input mode button, so that the pen-based input device behaves as a selection-based input device;

detecting another use-input from the selection-based input device; and

in response to detection the another use-input from the selection-based input device, automatically unlatching the pen-based input device from behaving as a selection-based input device without receiving a selection of the selection-based input mode button.

The cited references do not teach or otherwise suggest the above combination of features. The Office Action acknowledges that Stein does not teach latching and unlatching the input devices. The Office Action argues that Hawkins remedies that lack of teaching. This contention is unsupported in Hawkins. With regard to the portions cited in the Office Action, Hawkins teaches as follows:

Computer 10 has a weight of approximately 4 pounds. The sides 11 of computer 10 are curved to make an attractive and easily held package. *Hawkins*, col. 3, lines 45-47.

FIGS. 33A-33D are schematic diagrams depicting reordered data;
FIGS. 34A-33D are schematic diagrams illustrating the unrotated and rotated font storage formats; and
FIGS. 35A and 35B are flow charts illustrating the font reorientation procedure. *Hawkins*, col. 3, lines 31-39.

When stylus 29 touches screen overlay 30, stylus 29 transmits the magnitude of the voltage of the overlay 30 at that point to an overlay controller within the computer. *Hawkins*, col. 4, lines 60-63

For example, the stylus 29 may emulate a mouse when used to interact with the application program graphics displayed in the top segment 13t and be used to enter keystroke data by touching the display on the bottom segment 13b. *Hawkins*, col. 9, lines 49-53.

Hawkins still fails to teach "latching the selection-based input device, by *receiving a selection of the pen-based input button*, so that the selection-based input device behaves as a pen-based input device." Hawkins also fails to teach "*in response to detecting the another use-input* of the pen-based input device, *automatically unlatching the selection-based input* device from behaving as a pen-based input device without receiving a selection of the pen based input mode button." Hawkins fails to teach "latching the pen-based input device, by *receiving a selection of the selection-based input mode button*, so that the pen-based input device behaves as a selection-based input device." Hawkins also fails to teach "*in response to detection the another use-input* from the selection-based input device, *automatically unlatching the pen-based input device* from behaving as a selection-based input device without receiving a selection of the selection-based input mode button." Accordingly, applicants assert that claim 18 is in condition for allowance.

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Response to Office Action dated June 28, 2007

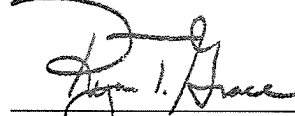
Claims 5-14 and 17 ultimately depends from independent claim 1 and 15, respectively. As such, they should be found allowable for at least those same reasons. Claims 19-20 ultimately depend from independent claim 18. As such, they should be found allowable for at least those same reasons.

VI. Request for Reconsideration

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all pending claims are believed to be allowable and the application is in condition for allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any further issues regarding this application, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney for the applicant at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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